TWO PETITIONS,

OF THE

Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others of the Inhabitants of the County of HERTFORD.

The one

To the Right Honourable Houſe of PEERS.

The other,

To the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, of the Honourable Houſe of *Commons* aſſembled in PARLIAMENT.

Delivered

By at leaſt 4000 Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the County of HERTFORD *Ianuary* 25. 1641.

LONDON,

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE HOVSE OF PEERS, now assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the County of HERTFORD.

Sheweth,

THat the Petitioners having hitherto with much patience waited for, and with great confidence expected the happy progresse of this Parliament, and therein the removall of all those grievances, under which they have a long time groaned, and the perfect Reformation of Church and Common-wealth, they are now constrained to represent unto this Honourable House, the manifold feares, troubles, and distractions wherewith they are incompassed, arising from that hellish and bloody rebellion in *Ireland*, acted by the Papists against our Brethren, by Nation and Religion, apparently threatning the losse of that Kingdome, the extirpation of the Protestant Religion there, and extreame prejudice, if not utter ruine of this Kingdome, from the want of timely and powerfull supplies to suppresse those Rebells; the not granting ample Commissions to those who have bin ready to take up Armes a-

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gainſt them; the not paſſing of the Acts for impreſſing Souldiers to that ſervice, and the delayes in acceptance of the worthy offer of the Scotch Nation, to ſend 10000 Souldiers thither; from the continuance of the Prelacy, and multitudes of erronious and ſcandalous Miniſters in this Kingdome; the Inſolencie of the Papiſts, their being armed; the want of execution of Juſtice againſt Prieſts and Jeſuits already condemned, and other notorious Delinquents; the many deſperate plots and deſignes attempted againſt the Parliament and Kingdome, by the Popiſh and Prelaticall party; the great and unparalleld breaches lately made upon the Priviledges of Parliament, endangering the overthrow of the very being thereof, and the deſtruction of divers of its Members, worthy Patriots of their Country; the not diſcloſing and puniſhing of thoſe perſons who counſelled the ſame; The unpreparedneſſe of the Sea Forts and other ſtrengths of this Kingdome by Sea and Land, againſt any Invaſion; and the continuance of divers of them in unſafe hands, wherein the Parliament, (and in them the whole Kingdome) cannot confide; the delay of putting the Kingdome into a poſture of Warre, for their better defence; the miſunderſtanding between his Majeſty and the *Parliament*, and the want of Compliance by this Honourable Houſe with the Houſe of Commons, in entertaining thoſe many good Motions, and paſſing thoſe neceſſary Bills preſented to you from that Houſe for the Common good. All which ſprings and cauſes of your Petitioners feares and diſtractions, having occaſioned the totall decay of trade, and great ſcarcity of money, and thereby the impoveriſhing and unſettlement of the whole Kingdome, and tending ſo exceedingly to the indangering of his Majeſties honour and dignity, and the peace and ſafety of this Kingdome.

come. The Petitioners do verily beleeve, that as the ſame received their firſt being from the Popiſh and Prelaticall party, ſo have they hitherto bin continued, and will (it is greatly to be feared) dayly increaſe by the Voting of the Popiſh Lords and Biſhops in this Honourable Houſe (whoſe intereſts in reſpect of Religion, their own ſtandings, or otherwiſe are at this time ſo contrary to the happineſſe of this Kingdome) and by the continuance of wicked Councellors and evill Miniſters of State about his Majeſty.

The Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that all the foreſaid Cauſes and ſprings of their fears and troubles may be ſpeedily removed: And (for the effecting thereof) that the evill Counſellors and others hindring the publique good may bee taken from about his Majeſtie, and the voting of the Popiſh Lords and Biſhops removed out of this Honourable Houſe: And that the Petitioners (who ſhall be ever ready to hazard their lives and Eſtates for the defence of the King and Parliament, the Priviledges of the ſame, and in ſpeciall thoſe noble Lords and Gentlemen in both Houſes (whoſe endeavours are for the publike good) may have liberty to proteſt againſt all thoſe as enemies to this Kingdome, who refuſe to joyne with the Houſe of Commons for the putting of the Kingdome into a way of ſafety under the Command of ſuch perſons as the Parliament ſhall appoint.

And your Petitioners ſhall dayly pray, &c.

TO

TO THE HONOURABLE THE *KNIGHTS, CITIZENS* and *BURGESSES*, of the Houſe of COMMONS aſſembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and others, inhabitants of the County of HERTFORD.

Sheweth,

THat this Church and Kingdome being by the Prelates, theſe multitudes of corrupt and ſcandalous Miniſters (their Creatures) and the Popiſh party, concurring with them on the one hand, and by wicked Counſellors, evill Miniſters of State, and great ſwarmes of Projectors and others ill affected to the peace of this Realme, on the other hand, brought to a ſad and almoſt deſperate condition, and thereby the ſplendor of his Majeſties Crowne and Dignity dangerouſly weakned and eclypſed. It pleaſed his Majeſtie, having reſpect to the Petitions of his Nobles & people in that behalfe, to call this preſent Parliament, the only able meanes (under God) to reforme the many preſ-

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tures and grievances of the Church and Kingdome, and to remove the cauſes thereof.

In which Parliament, to the honour of his Majeſtie, and comfort of his good Subjects, exemplarie Juſtice hath been executed, Arbytrary Courts, Ship-money, Monopolies, and other illegall Impoſitions removed, the ſhedding of much blood prevented, by the late union betweene the two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, and further hopes given us of perfecting what remaines by the happy continuance and much deſired progreſſe of this Parliament.

And although that malignant partie of Prelates and Papiſts, and their adherents, whoſe preſent ſtanding, and the happy ſucceſſe of this Parliament, as the Petitioners humbly conceive, are inconſiſtant, have by the manifold wicked practices and deſignes endeavoured to hinder a thorow reformation in Church and Common-wealth, to ſtifle in the birth and progreſſe thoſe good bills, and other preparations made by this Honourable aſſemblie for that purpoſe, and eſpecially, for the reliefe of the Kingdome of *Ireland*, (the ruine whereof will endanger this Kingdome alſo) to ſtop the influence of his Majeſties Royall favour in giving life thereto, to divide betweene his Majeſtie and this Honourable aſſembly, and to render to you not onely contemptible, but alſo burthenſome to the people; yet the Petioners, and as they verily believe, all well affected to his Majeſtie, and the peace and proſperitie of this Kingdome, live, and ſtill ſhall continue in high and honourable eſteeme of this aſſembly, and of your great and unconceived endeavours, and doe with the utmoſt expreſſions of their thankfulneſſe acknowledge the ſame, and the progreſſe and perfecting thereof to be of great conſequence and deepe neceſ-

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ſitie to the peace and welfare of this Church and Kingdome, and ſuch as without which, not only a reſtaure of the former calamities, but even utter ruine and deſolation, like that, being too long continued in ſad & much lamented *Ireland* will apparently enſue.

From the ſenſe whereof, and of the great and unheard of breach lately made upon the priviledges of Parliament, even to the endangering of the being thereof, wherein your Petitioners and their poſterity are much concerned. The Petitioners take upon them the humble boldneſſe to declare their readineſſe and great engagements according to their Proteſtation, to ſtand to, and defend, to the utmoſt perill of their lives and eſtates, the Kings Majeſtie and high Court of Parliament, with all the power and priviledges of the ſame. And as your Honourable proceedings for the common good againſt all Popiſh and other malignant oppoſers, who endeavour, either by evill Counſell, ſecret plots, or open force to hurt or prejudice the ſame, or to make diviſions betweene his Majeſty and the Parliament.

And the ſaid Petitioners humbly pray, that the Papiſts may be fully diſarmed, and the Lawes againſt them executed, the Kingdomes, and eſpecially this County, according to their late Petition in that behalfe, put into a poſture of warre for their better defence, the forts and ſtrength of this Kingdome put into ſafe hands, which the Parliament may confide and truſt in, the priviledges of Parliament repaired and throughly vindicated, and that this Honourable aſſembly, as hath been lately deſired of you by the Citizens of London, *will be a meanes unto his Majeſtie and Houſe of Peers, that life may be ſpeedily given to your good endeavours by their concurrence with you in taking away of the votes of Popiſh Lords and Biſhops out of the Houſe of Peers, the ſpeedy and ſtrong reliefe of* Irleland, *the further puniſhment of Delinquents, the removall of the preſſures and grievances in Church and Common-wealth, and reforming of what is therein amiſſe*

For all which your Petitioners ſhall daily pray, &c.

FINIS.

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